



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

April 3, 2012

Jo Anita Miley
256-895-1585

JoAnita.Miley@usace.army.mil

Corps employees explore scientific process with local students

By Jo Anita Miley

The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville employs professionals of various disciplines, and many of those professionals perform community outreach as a part of their mission. So, when a local school asked for assistance with an educational outreach event, the Center's Speaker's Bureau, in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Awareness Program, enhanced participation at the Center.

Six Huntsville Center employees joined more than 200 students at the First Missionary Baptist Child Development Center and Academy to help celebrate Science Week March 12-16.

Judging were, **April Rafael-Adams, Lynn Helms, Jelani Ingram, Xavier Thigpen, Jacqueline White**, all of Engineering Directorate, and **Atidya Williams**, Business Management Directorate.

Pamela Jones, second grade teacher at First Missionary Baptist Child Development Center and Academy, who also organized the event, said the event was a huge success. National Science Week is designed to help students open their minds to finding out about careers in science, technology, engineering and math, and to gain a better understanding of how the scientific process works with science fair projects.

"We are very pleased with Huntsville Center's participation in today's (March 15) event. We are grateful that your organization took part in the Science Fair today - this was definitely a plus for our school," Jones said. "The judges did an excellent job examining the science projects, and the students were given a chance to interact with the engineers to discuss their projects during the judging process." They really enjoyed showcasing their efforts to everyone."

The main goal of the Corps' STEM outreach program is to connect with kids and promote careers that fall under the science, technology, engineering and math fields. The judges said this was a unique way to expose students to STEM careers.

Members of the judging team said participating as judges for local science fairs is a very unique way to promote STEM awareness for younger kids.

“I really enjoyed being able to inspire potential scientists and engineers,” said Helms, who judged second grade projects at the science fair. “I especially liked how these elementary school students took a simple hypothesis (educated guess) about something and proved why it would (or would not) work.” We (judges) learned a lot about science from each science project - they made science come alive today.”

Center employees also participated March 8 as judges for the North Alabama Science and Engineering Fair hosted by the Huntsville Chapter of the Society of Military Engineers at the University of Alabama, Huntsville, and will return April 6 to judge the Alabama Science and Engineering Fair.

Photo caption:

Lynn Helms talks with second grade students at the First Missionary Baptist Church Child Development Center and Academy during the Science Fair. Helms was lead on the team that judged more than 75 group and individual and group projects during National Science Week.